1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6.	West-Bengal	2	4-Laning between Raniganj and West Bengal/Bihar Boardar Km.438.6 to 474.0 of NH-2	35.40	88.27	Pre-construction activities in progress. Teners are to be invited.	December. 2000	(i) Delay in project preparation and land acquisition (ii) Delay in finalisation R&R action plan as per World Bank guidelines
7.	Orissa	State Road	Construction of 6 damaged State Road Bridges in Ganjam District	-	32.5	Works commenced in March. 1994 Progress-65%	December. 1996	Due to unprecedented rains.
					290.3			

[English]

Road Development

2960. SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "over Rs. 253.000 crore needed for road development: study" appearing in the 'Observer' dated May 22, 1996:

(b) if so, the details thereof: and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) This Ministry is primarily concerned with the development of National Highways only. As regards National Highways, it has been assessed that approximately an amount of Rs. 73.000 crores (at 1996 price level), would be needed for removal of deficiencies in the existing National Highway network. No such assessment has, however, been made for expansion of National Highway network due to severe resource constraints.

(c) Keeping in view the inadequate budgetary resources, Government have taken measures to involve private sector in the development and maintenance of National Highways.

[Translation]

Kendriya Vidyalaya in Azamgarh

2961. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Tehsil Lalganj of District Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Issue of Passports in Mumbai

2962. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of passports issued in Mumbai and Delhi metropolitan cities after April, 1995:

(b) whether the Government are aware of the fact that even after police verification a lot of time is taken in issuing passports:

(c) whether the number of employees is not sufficient in the passport offices in Mumbai:

(d) if so, the details thereof:

(e) whether the Government propose to set up another branch of Passport Office in Mumbai: and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) The number of passports issued by Regional Passport Office, Mumbai and Regional Passport Office, Delhi from 1.4.95 to 31.7.96 are 306230 and 150583 respectively.

(b) Passports are normally issued on receipt of clear police verification reports or on expiry of four weeks from the date of making such a reference to the police whichever is earlier and on first come first served basis except in cases of emergency/urgency where passports are issued on out of turn basis on the strength of a verification Certificate issued by an authorised official and documentary evidence substantiating the

emergency/urgency. It has. however. been found that in some cases where negative or incomplete police reports have been received by the Passport Offices. there have been some delays in issuing new Passports. In such cases. necessary follow-up action is invariably taken by the concerned Passport Officers in getting complete reports from the concerned police authorities and also by advising the applicants to approach the concerned police authorities with original documents/court order to get clear reports from them on the basis of which passports are then issued.

(c) and (d). The number of employees in Regional Passport Office. Mumbai are as per prescribed norms and keeping in view the volume of work handled by this office. the existing staff strength appears to be adequate.

(e) and (f). The possibility of setting up another Passport office is being examined. In the meantime it is proposed to open a Passport Collection Centre at Thane.

[English]

Construction of Tunnel under Rohtang Pass

2963. SHRI SUKH RAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a tunnel under Rohtang Pass:

(b) if so. whether any survey was conducted for the same; and

(c) if so, the progress made in construction of the tunnel under Rohtang Pass and expenditure incurred thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b). The feasibility study of constructing a tunnel has been entrusted to M/s. RITES.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Repair of N.H. in Gujarat

2964. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highway between Bharuch and Wapi needs repair and the aforesaid highway is under enormous traffic pressure:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any repair work is likely to be undertaken on the National Highway between Ahmedabad and Mumbai during 1996-97; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The Bharuch-Wapi section of National Highway 8 is heavily trafficked and is being maintained in a traffic worthy condition within the available resources.

(b) For maintenance and repairs of National Highways including the Bharuch-Wapit section. the following releases have been made :

1994-95	:	Rs. 1316.64 lakhs
1995-96	:	Rs. 1745.20 lakhs
1996-97	:	Rs. 391.30 lakhs (upto July, 1996)

(c) and (d). No Flood Damage Repair estimate for the year 1996-97 has been received for the National Highway from Ahemdabad to Mumbai.

[English]

Inter-State Transport Schemes

2965. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of important inter-state transport schemes sanctioned during the last three years; and

(b) the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). As per information obtained from the State Governments no such scheme has been sanctioned for any State/Union Territories except in case of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli. Reply from these States/ Union Territories have not been received.

Imported Contraceptives

2966. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge consignment of imported contraceptives for the national family planning programme has been found faulty by the statutory tasting authority;

(b) whether any investigations have been made in the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c). Samples from an imported consignment of tubal rings were found not meeting one of the parameters of BIS specifications in the testing Laboratory at IIT. However, samples were found acceptable when retested at another laboratory. The